Third leaves eight or ten pairs, placed oppoſite, and diminiſhing from the loweſt to the higheſt.

Lobes eight or ten pairs, divided down to the nerve, of an oblong figure, terminating in an obtuſe point, the verges a little rolled back, and, while young, feeling downy to the touch.

Seed veſſels diſpoſed in lines under the edges of the lobes, (which is the characteriſtic of the genus,) at firſt white, afterwards brown; when the ſeeds are diſcharged, the lines become broader and more conſpicuous, but never cover the diſk of the lobes, as all the acroſticha, and many of the aſplenia do.

The plate repreſents a third leaf of the natural ſize with the ſeed veſſels.

Brakes, (in Yorkſhire, brackens,) grow about the ſkirts of barren moors, and in ſuch waſte places where the badneſs of the ſoil renders the ground not worth cultivating.